

**Milford Conservation Commission****Meeting Minutes June 11, 2015****7:00pm BOS meeting room**

**Present:** Members: Audrey Frazier (Chair); Andy Hughes (Vice-Chair); Janet Urquhart; Hub Seward; Kim Rimalover; Greg Boggis; Alternates: Eric Radloff

**Excused:** Members: Andy Seale., Alternates: Chris Costantino; Rodney Dellafelice Potential New Member: Shelly LaSalle

**Approval of May 14 Minutes** On a motion by Andy Hughes, the members unanimously approved the May 14 meeting minutes

**Appointments**

**7:00** Yvonne Beran: Grant Workshop Update and Ideas: See below #1 for description.

**7:15** Melendy Country Landowners, to discuss an easement on their property for the commission to monitor. See below #2 for description.

Item	Discussion	Who Will Do What
1. Grant Workshop Update and Ideas	<p>Yvonne Beran briefly summarized information presented at a recent workshop, attended by Chris C and herself, advising NH Conservation Commissions on the grant application process. Highlights were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Potential projects must align with the goals of a prospective grantor</li><li>• The writing of the grant is the last part of the application process. Before writing, the grantor(s) should be contacted to discuss the match of the project to their priorities.</li><li>• Timing of applications is important. The 2015 window for Bureau of Trails has passed.</li></ul> <p>The Slide Deck for the workshop presentation can be found on the Commission's Dropbox account at: Folder: Dropbox&gt;ConComm&gt;Grants Filename The_ins_and_outs_of_Con_Com_Grant-writing.2.pdf</p> <p>Yvonne B is looking for guidance from the commission on projects of interest for seeking grants, and their relative priority.</p> <p>Audrey F suggested</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• the Rail Trail crossings at Armory Rd and Melendy Rd. She wondered whether there were any funding bodies who would support development of plans. Yvonne responded that the National Park Service might be suitable.</li><li>• finding out whether any grantors would contribute to funds for land acquisition.</li><li>• A study of town wetlands with a view to determining whether Prime Wetland status would be appropriate.</li></ul> <p>Andy H suggest A Town-Wide NRI It was decided that a meeting would be set up with Yvonne to discuss the matter further,</p>	<p>Chris C. Work with to set a date on a Monday or Tuesday evening to discuss further.</p>

2. Melendy Country Landowners, to discuss an easement on their property for the commission to monitor	<p>Four of the families were represented by; Sandy Frades, Rex and Jan Lint, Pauline Boggis, and Olav Nieuwejaar. Sand &amp; Rex presented.</p> <p>The families wish to ensure that a large fraction (35 acres) of their land, owned jointly by them through Melendy Country Landowners, is preserved in its current undeveloped state in perpetuity. The land includes a short section of the Rail Trail. They wish to donate it to the conservation commission for this purpose.</p> <p>Audrey explained the benefit of a Conservation Easement, and the advisability of it being held by a 3<sup>rd</sup> party. She offered to provide example language for an Easement, plus potential organizations to hold the easement. This offer was accepted and Audrey will provide this information.</p> <p>The families are going to have a survey conducted of the property and are in the process of obtaining a quote.</p> <p>The families asked how quickly this transfer and easement could be executed. Audrey responded it could be in quick as a month once the survey was completed.</p>	Audrey to provide sample easement language and names of suggested potential organizations to hold that Easement.
3. 4 <sup>th</sup> Saturday hike	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• April 25 at Beaver Brook – AFraizer reported. 8 hikers</li> <li>• May 23<sup>rd</sup> Rail Trail – AFraizer reported. 4 hikers</li> </ul>	Andy H to lead June 27 hike at Brox.
4. Trail Committee update by Brian Hawkins	<p>Earth Day Cleanup by Milford High School – Didn't happen, MHS chose another project.</p> <p>New Trail Stewards have been appointed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• John Erdody SRT (Souhegan River Trail West</li> <li>• George Skuse Souhegan River Trail EastShelley LaSalle – Rail Trail</li> </ul> <p>Brian updated the Commission on activity at various properties:</p> <p>SRT East walked June 2<sup>nd</sup> by Brian H, Audrey F,Chris C and George Skuse. Brian and George are planning a walk-through with landowners Steve and Sean Trombly.</p> <p>SRT West walked with Patrick. Thanks extended to the landowner for not ploughing to edges of the fields, thereby facilitating trail use.</p> <p>Rotch:- The Marsh section has been permanently closed due to persistent flooding, arising from Beaver activity, and a bypass trail instituted.</p>	<p>Brian H:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• look at access points to Chapel Trail and logging areas, to determine best deployment of boulders and/or gates to prevent vehicular access.</li> <li>• Install new signage at Tucker Brook stating wheeled motorized vehicle access is not permitted.</li> <li>• Consider framing trails</li> </ul>

	<p>Boulders and/or Gates are needed to close off vehicular access (currently known to be occurring) from Rte 13 to the 'Chapel' trail, and to the logging area (again of Rte 13) further south.</p> <p>Audrey asked about keeping the church area open for wildlife</p> <p>Mileslip TF:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Extensive trail work has been undertaken by Steve Erdody. Work has also been undertaken by Mike Sebas and Carl Olson.</li> <li>• Trail map is not yet ready, a Work In Progress.</li> </ul> <p>Tucker Brook TF:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Two students from Milford High School installed new trail signage.</li> <li>• Audrey noted receipt of a letter this week from an abutter highlighting illegal ATV access. Audrey requested new signage to make it clear that such access is forbidden.</li> </ul> <p>Mayflower Hill TF:- Removal of Graffiti</p> <p>Granite Town Trail:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Beaver Deceivers (themselves) are working, however water level in lowest pond is very high due to damming downstream.</li> <li>• A tree fell across the section from Armory Rd to Rte 101. It was cleared by persons unknown.</li> <li>• The handrails on the footbridge at the DPW trail head have rotted. A quote is being prepared for the repair.</li> <li>• There are four stewards covering the length of the trail:- Tim Barr, Phil Conti, Shelley LaSalle, Carolyn Halstead</li> </ul> <p>Scout Projects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Aaron Leach working on 3 orienteering trails</li> <li>• David Spaulding working on Bike Trail at Mile Slip with help from Steve Erdody, Mike Sebas and Carl Olson. It is at the flagging state right now.</li> </ul> <p>In 2015 it is hoped to make progress on the SRT.</p>	<p>projects with an eye toward Grant applications.</p> <p>Audrey F: write Letter to Editor (Cabinet) including reminder that wheeled motorized vehicle access is not permitted.</p>
5. Tree removal at Patch Hill	<p>A resident who abuts the Patch Hill property requested permission to remove a tall pine tree adjacent to her property that was leaning over slightly in the property owner's direction. While it posed no immediate threat, permission was nonetheless granted and the tree was removed</p>	

	at the owner's expense.	
6. Brox	<p>a) Audrey reported that she has delivered a presentation to the BoS of the final Brox NRI report. She considered it well received. She suggested to them:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development of a Beaver Management Plan for the property</li> <li>• Cons Comm to work with DPW on Invasive Species issues</li> <li>• A Warrant article for 2106, allowing the BoS to sell part of the property for Conservation</li> </ul> <p>Andy H stated that Steve Duncanson of the Planning Board reported they had not thus far received a copy or the NRI.</p> <p>b) Blandings Turtles are active including within the pit area. DPW and Mark B walked the property with BEC (Brox Environmental Citizens). DPW activity in the pit has ceased for the remainder of the turtle's breeding season.</p> <p>c) Test Pit 23:- BEC have raised an issue with the proximity of Test Pit 23 (from the recent Engineering Study) to a vernal pool. The State authorities are investigating.</p>	Audrey plans to present the NRI to the Planning Board at a future meeting.
7. Future Work Sessions	A Work Session has be scheduled for Tues 23 or Tues 30 <sup>th</sup> – exact subject and date TBD	Chris will coordinate with Yvonne

## End televised portion of meeting

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**Next Regular Meeting – July 9, 2015 @ 7PM, Selectmen's Meeting Room.**

**Meeting schedule for 2015:** Jan 8, Feb 12, Mar 12, Apr 9, May 7, Jun 11, Jul 9, Aug13, Sep 10, Oct 8, Nov 12, Dec 10.

*The order and matters of this meeting are subject to change without further notice.*